

EXTRAORDINARY LIVING FOR EXTRAORDINARY LIVES

# LUXURY

LAS VEGAS

# DO YOU KNOW the way to MONTEREY? Making Waves on the Central California Coast

BY MARILYN LAROCQUE

Dionne Warwick should update her 1968 hit and head south to Monterey, a panoramic playground embracing California's Central Pacific Coast. Now that Allegiant Airlines has inaugurated non-stop flights from Las Vegas, Monterey's great wines, fabulous food, legendary golf courses, and famous Cannery Row are only 75 minutes away. (Flights take off in each direction Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. [www.allegiantair.com](http://www.allegiantair.com)) September and October are perfect months to visit.

## WHERE TO STAY

Whether your taste tends towards quaint, historic B&Bs or ultra-sleek hotels, the Monterey Peninsula will accommodate you. We stayed at five very different properties, each with unique ambiance.

### Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa, Monterey

Old-world elegance and natural beauty blend at Monterey Plaza overlooking Monterey Bay at the east end of Cannery Row

away from tourist turmoil. The luxurious lobby has marble floors, rich wood paneling, and towering windows framing the Bay.

Opulent decor of brocades and formal furnishings greeted us in our gorgeous room with a Bay view. The luxurious spa and lap pool are on the top floor of the building. Basking in the jacuzzi, you can watch colorful armadas of kayaks, pleasure boats, and fishing trawlers, and possibly spy some marine life.

Schooners Bistro is their casual indoor-outdoor lunch-dinner-cocktails rendezvous.

Lunch standouts are crab and shrimp spring rolls, an artichoke sampler, and seafood salad with Ahi tuna, shrimp, and crab. Their gourmet Duck Club Grill (breakfast and dinner) ranks among the best restaurants in the area. Walls of fossil shell stone from the ocean floor and an "exhibition" kitchen add appeal. Honey glazed wild shrimp and artichoke and pine nut ravioli shine as starters, and Steinbeck's duck with blood orange sauce and garlic ginger and coconut crusted Ahi tuna are delicious entrées. [www.montereyplazahotel.com](http://www.montereyplazahotel.com)